

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-36 (canceled).

37. (new) A method of reducing the quantity of dust generated by a drywall joint compound, comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a drywall joint compound comprising at least 50% by wet weight filler, no greater than 20% by wet weight binder, and water; and
- (b) adding between 1.5% and 6.0% by wet weight dust reducing additive consisting essentially of oil to the drywall joint compound, thereby to reduce the quantity of dust generated by the hardened drywall joint compound by at least 50%.

38. (new) A method of reducing the quantity of dust generated by a drywall joint compound, comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a drywall joint compound consisting essentially of filler, binder, and water; and
- (b) adding a sufficient quantity of dust reducing additive to the drywall joint compound to reduce the quantity of dust generated by the hardened drywall joint compound by at least 50%.

39. (new) A method of reducing the quantity of dust generated by a drywall joint compound, comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a drywall joint compound consisting essentially of filler, binder, and water which when allowed to harden and tested as described in this specification, generates a quantity of airborne particles having a size of less than 10 microns which is at least 75 mg/m^3 ; and
- (b) adding a sufficient quantity of dust reducing additive to the drywall joint compound to reduce the quantity of dust generated by the hardened drywall joint compound by at least 50%.

40. (new) A method of reducing the quantity of dust generated by a drywall joint compound, comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a drywall joint compound comprising filler, water, and at least one a defoamer, wetting agent, preservative, fungicide, and binder; and
- (b) adding a sufficient quantity of dust reducing additive to the drywall joint compound to reduce the quantity of dust generated by the hardened drywall joint compound by at least 50%.

41. (new) The method of claim 40, wherein the drywall joint compound of step (a), which when allowed to harden and tested as described in this specification, generates a quantity of airborne particles having a size of less than 10 microns which is at least 75 mg/m^3 .

42. (new) A method of reducing the quantity of dust generated by a drywall joint compound, comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a drywall joint compound which when allowed to harden and tested as described in this specification, generates a quantity of airborne particles having a size of less than 10 microns of at least 75 mg/m^3 ;
- (b) adding a sufficient quantity of dust reducing additive to the drywall joint compound to reduce the quantity of dust generated by at least 50%.

43. (new) A method of reducing the quantity of dust generated by a drywall joint compound, comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a complete and functional drywall joint compound; and
- (b) adding a sufficient quantity of dust reducing additive to the drywall joint compound to reduce the quantity of dust generated by the hardened drywall joint when sanded.

44. (new) A method of reducing the quantity of dust generated by a drywall joint compound, comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a drywall joint compound substantially free of dust reducing additive; and
- (b) adding a sufficient quantity of dust reducing additive to the drywall joint compound to reduce the quantity of dust generated by the hardened drywall joint when sanded.

45. (new) A method of reducing the quantity of dust generated by a drywall joint compound, comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a drywall joint compound containing dust reducing additive in a quantity insufficient to reduce the quantity of dust generated by the hardened joint compound when sanded; and
- (b) adding dust reducing additive to the drywall joint compound in a quantity sufficient to reduce the quantity of dust generated by the hardened drywall joint when sanded.

46. (new) A method of filling joints between adjacent wallboard panels comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a drywall joint compound including between about 1.5% to about 6.0% of the joint compound total wet weight dust reducing additive so that when the drywall joint compound is sanded, the joint compound generates a quantity of airborne particles which is at least 50% less than the quantity of airborne particles that would be generated by the compound without the dust reducing additive;
- (b) applying the drywall joint compound to the joint;
- (c) allowing the drywall joint compound to dry to a hard sandable condition; and
- (d) sanding the dry drywall joint compound to a smooth finish.

47. (new) A method of filling joints between adjacent wallboard panels as defined in claim 46, wherein said dust reducing additive comprises oil.